



International Geneva
Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors

Women's Hope International | WHI

www.womenshope.ch

Looslistrasse 15 | CH-3027 Bern

Tel +41 31 991 55 56 | mail: info@womenshope.ch

BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Women's Hope International (WHI) is a Swiss NGO aiming at improving maternal health in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Chad. WHI supports girls and women irrespective of age, origin, language, religion, cultural and political conviction and coordinates its innovative projects with government health systems. WHI creates long-term partnerships with local actors to help them achieve greater professional competence.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Maternal and reproductive health
- Prevention and treatment of obstetric fistulas
- Prevention of child marriages and teenage pregnancies

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

WHI supports projects and hospitals for the treatment of obstetric fistula with a focus on offering women surgeries as a treatment, as well as pre- and post-surgical care. To prevent obstetric fistula and improve maternal health in general, WHI is active in two more domains: "Strong Girls and Women" fights against forced marriage of children and the prevention of teenage pregnancies that often comes with it. Child marriage and teenage pregnancies can lead prolonged labour and obstetric fistula as the pelvis is not fully developed in many teenagers. WHI promotes the social independence and self-determination of girls and women by offering counselling on reproductive health and family planning. To improve safety during childbirth, WHI supports the training of midwives and the construction of birth clinics in rural areas in Africa and Asia.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

WHI employs 4 employees at its office in Bern, in addition to a number of volunteers. CEO and Head of International Programs is Gerhard Bärtschi. The supervisory board oversees the management and is responsible for the strategic management. President and co-founder of WHI is Dr Martin Leimgruber.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Funding sources for WHI are donations by individuals, companies and foundations, as well as contributions by the church and governments. Total income in 2017 was CHF 1.3 million, of which 70% were earmarked funds.

PUBLICATIONS

For reports in general, including annual reports (in German), see:

<https://www.womenshope.ch/de/infothek/jahresberichte>

For annual reports in English, see: <https://www.womenshope.ch/en/information-centre/annual-report>

Last update: 21.08.2019